

(b) if so, the status of the proposals; and

(c) the time-frame within which these centres would be set up to help them to get good price for their produce and curb distress sale among the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH):

(a) No, Sir. The Department of Commerce is not aware of any such proposal.

(b) and (c) Do not arise..

Reduction in Tobacco Board Staff

2264. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Peer Committee recommended reduction of staff in Tobacco Board and withdrawal of minimum support price of tobacco within three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH):

(a) and (b) The Committee has recommended that the production of FCV tobacco be deregulated. A transition period of three years be adopted for moving to a deregulated and market driven regime. The system of MSP be continued during the transition period. The Peer Review Committee has suggested to conduct an Internal Work Study for staff requirement, if considered necessary, after the recommendation of the Committee are implemented.

Export of tobacco

2265. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the volume of tobacco exported from our country, State-wise and year-wise during the last three years; and

(b) what steps are being taken by the Ministry to increase our exports as recommended by Peer Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH):

(a) The estimates of exports of FCV tobacco from Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka based on the information received from the exporters during the last three years are as follows:

(Qty; tons, value: Rs. crores)

Year	AP		Karnataka		Total	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
2003-04	52482	324.06	46701	378.24	99183	702.30
2004-05	64192	440.78	41225	377.34	105417	818.12
2005-06	67764	460.68	41811	397.30	109575	857.90

(b) The Tobacco Board under the Ministry of Commerce provide assistance to farmers through various extension & development schemes to reorient the production of tobacco to enhance its quality and productivity in tune with the changing international demand and quality. It also participates in international trade fairs/exhibitions to promote Indian tobacco and organizes delegations of tobacco traders and exporters to various countries. The Board also undertakes an extensive advertisement campaign in the international media to promote Indian tobacco.

SEZs in Gujarat

2266. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of SEZs at Bajhera Khurd, Dhulana Block, Ghaziabad of Uttar Pradesh and at Jamnagar, Junagarh of Gujarat;

(b) the details of land acquired, the price paid to land owners by Government or the company owning the SEZs;

(c) whether it is a fact that the farmers protesting against the SEZ in Uttar Pradesh were attacked by PAC; and

(d) if so, the reasons for such attack?